GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4108
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
BIDS INVITED BY GAIL FOR LAYING OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited has invited bids for laying optical fibre cable in six States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the distances available for laying fibre optical cable;

(d) the amount expected to be earned by GAIL;

(e) whether GAIL is entering in a non-core sector; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to assess the expected return for this venture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has invited bids for laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for the first phase of its network of about 1650 km. length covering the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat , Maharashtra , Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

(d): GAIL expects to earn a revenue of Rs. 100 crore in the first year of its OFC operation.

(e): GAIL proposes to enter into the Telecom sector as a category II infrastructure provider.

(f): GAIL is in the process of commissioning a detailed feasibility study for this venture.